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Docket No. 1232-4671

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): OKADA et al.

Group Art 2172

Serial No.: 09/753,726

Examiner: CORRIELUS, Jean

Filed: January 3, 2001

For: WORK ASSIGNMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD, DISTRIBUTED
CLIENT/SERVER SYSTEM, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM STORAGE MEDIUM

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. §1.8(a))

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I hereby certify that the attached:

1. Information Disclosure Statement,
2. PTO Form-1449;
3. Copies of Eight (8) items listed in the Form-1449; and
4. Return Receipt Postcard.
- 5.

along with any paper(s) referred to as being attached or enclosed and this Certificate of Mailing are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

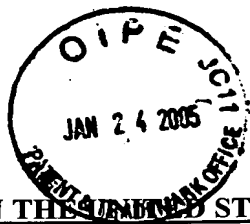
Dated: January 20, 2005

By:

Stephen J. Manetta

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. The items listed on Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed, are made of record to assist the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to fully consider the items and to independently ascertain their teaching.

1. ☒ For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, an English language translation of that item or a portion thereof or a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is enclosed:
For Item A, German Patent Publication 196 32 499 A1, English Abstract (Item EE); For Item B, Japanese Patent Publication 8-305748, English Abstract (Item FF); For Item AA, German Patent Office Action, Translation (Item BB); and For Item CC, German Patent Office Action, Translation (Item DD), are provided.
2. ☐ For each of the following items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not in the English language, a concise explanation of the relevance of that item is incorporated in the specification of the above-identified application.
3. ☐ Any copy of the items listed on the enclosed copy of Form PTO-1449 that is not enclosed with this Information Disclosure Statement was previously cited by or submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office in application Serial No. , filed which is a divisional of application serial no. , filed .
4. ☐ No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:
 - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(1), within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a CPA; or
 - ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(2), within three months of the date of entry into the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application; or

- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(3), before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits; or
- ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)(4) before the mailing date of a first office action after the filing of an RCE under §1.114.
5. ☒ No fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a Notice of Allowance (where there has been no prior final action), and is accompanied by one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below.
6. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the period specified in paragraph 4 above but before the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance (where there has been no prior final action):
- ☐ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed in payment of the fee.
- ☐ Charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. _____. A
DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.
7. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), after the mailing date of a final action or a notice of allowance, whichever comes first, but before payment of the issue fee, and is accompanied by:
- a. one of the certifications pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) set forth in paragraph 9 below; and
- b. the fee due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) which is paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.
8. ☐ A fee is due under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) for this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being filed in compliance with:
- a. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(b)(3) or §1.313(c)(1), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement may render at least one claim unpatentable and is accompanied by the attached Petition To Withdraw Application From Issue and fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h);
- b. ☐ 37 C.F.R. §1.313(c)(2) or §1.313(c)(3), after the issue fee has been paid and information cited in this Information Disclosure Statement is to be considered in a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) or a Continuation application upon abandonment of the instant application and is accompanied by the attached Petition To Withdraw Application From Issue and fee pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.17(h).
- c. ☐ The fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p) are paid as set forth in paragraph 11 below.

9. ☒ I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- ☐ I hereby certify that no item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
10. ☒ This document is accompanied by a ☐ Search Report ☒ Communications which were cited in a corresponding ☐ PCT or ☒ Foreign application counterpart to the instant application and in a counterpart to a related US application (09/753,998):
- German Patent Office Communication for Application Nos. 101 00 274.2-53 and 101 00 275.2-53 (copy and translation provided).
11. ☐ A check in the amount of \$ 180.00 is enclosed in payment of the fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p).
- ☐ Charge the fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.17(h) and 1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. _____. A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ATTACHED.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Information Disclosure Statement, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4671.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: January 20, 2005

By: _____

Stephen J. Manetta

Registration No. 40,426

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 Telephone
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FORM PTO-1477 & TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION				Attorney Docket: 1232-4671		Serial No.: 09/753,726	
				Applicant: OKADA et al.			
				Filing Date: January 3, 2001		Group Art Unit: 2172	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Patent Number	Issue Date	Name	Class	Sub-Class	Filing Date
	1						
	2						
	3						
	4						
	5						
	6						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Patent Number	Publication Date	Country	Class	Sub-Class	Translation
	A	196 32 499 A1	03/6/1997	Germany			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	B	8-305748	11/22/1996	Japan			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
	C						<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
							<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, etc.)		
	AA	German Patent Office Communication for Application No. 101 00 274.2-53 counterpart to related US application 09/753,998.
	BB	Translation of German Patent Office Communication for Application No. 101 00 274.2-53 (Item AA).
	CC	German Patent Office Communication for counterpart Application No. 101 00 275.2-53.
	DD	Translation of German Patent Office Communication for Application No. 101 00 275.2-53 (Item CC).
	EE	English Abstract of German Patent Publication 196 32 499 A1 (Item A).
	FF	English Abstract of Japanese Publication 8-305748 (Item B).
	GG	
	HH	

Examiner	Date Considered
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP §609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.	